

Athletic Consent and Procedures

Benjamin Russell High School is a member of the Alabama High School Athletic Association. Benjamin Russell High will adhere to and enforce all rules and procedures established by the AHSAA. Students who elect to participate in any athletic sport or program at BRHS will adhere to and obey all rules established by the AHSAA, Alexander City Board of Education, coaches and administration of Benjamin Russell High School in the areas of eligibility, residency, physicals, academics, behavior and attendance. If applicable, all student-athletes will participate in the random drug testing program at BRHS. This handbook will also be given to each student-athlete whereas the procedures and consequences will be explained. All student-athletes will also participate and meet all expectations in strength and conditioning workouts. Students who do not meet eligibility and workout requirements will not participate in any athletic sport for one school calendar year. Student-athletes will also be held accountable for any fees or fines assessed by the AHSAA, ACBOE and BRHS for any uniforms, equipment, overnight travel, loss of items, ejections from contests, retesting of drug testing, etc...

The following team sports may be offered at BRHS this school year:

Jr. High Sports include: football, volleyball, cheerleading, basketball, softball,
baseball, golf, track, soccer, wrestling, dance

Varsity Sports Include: football, volleyball, band, bowling, cheerleading, cross
country, fishing, wrestling, basketball, softball, baseball,
golf, track, tennis, soccer, dance

Athletic Procedures on Behavior and Attitude

All students who are participating in any sport offered by BRHS or ACMS are held to high standards as it relates to behavior and attitude. Each head coach has full responsibility of their respective sport as it falls under the umbrella of the overall athletic program at BRHS. Some sports will have tryout requirements and/or fees. Students are responsible for any fees or any fundraisers for the sport. All players are required to attend practice, games and any other functions assigned by the coach. All players are to have a good attitude and respect other teammates, coaches, opponents, officials and fans. If a player doesn't show a good attitude, hard work ethic or respect, then the parents will be called to discuss possible options. If the problem isn't corrected, the player is subject to be dismissed from the team. Once a player is dismissed from one sport, they may not play or practice with another sport until the original sport has completed its season. Once a player quits or is dismissed, all fees may not be returnable and any fees owed must be paid. Any player who has been assigned to an individualized self-pacing academic program such as but not limited to alternative school will not participate in any sport until assigned time is completed.

NOTE: If an incident occurs involving a player that the principal deems as severe and puts the team, the sport or the school in a negative public image, the player will be dismissed immediately from the team and will not be allowed to play any other sport until the principal reinstates the player. Example: cursing a coach, fight during a game, trouble outside of school that involves police, etc...

Athletic Fees

Benjamin Russell High School Athletics has a No Pay No Play policy. If a student owes a debt to the school or other sponsors, they are ineligible to try out for an athletic sport. If no debt is owed, then the student who makes the team must participate in fundraisers or pay the fee before the athlete can play in an official game. Each sport has fundraisers to offset most if not all of the cost for athletes. Each athletic sport requires a certain amount of fundraising.

The following is a *tentative* amount for each sport or participation in fundraisers:

Football: No fee, Pay for 50% of their cleats

Cross Country: \$40

Varsity boys basketball- \$150.00; JV boys basketball \$100.00;

Dance Team has a "fee" of \$1000. Dancers may pay or participate in our fundraiser, Cow Patty Bingo or a combination of pay and sell raffle tickets.

Soccer (boys and girls)-\$225. This is \$150 for a raffle and \$75 for season passes (3).

Softball: Require to participate in ad sales and raffle ticket sales. Each girl is responsible for \$350 in ad sales and \$100 in raffle tickets.

Tennis: We do not charge a fee, but we do have them pay for their uniform. They also are required to participate in our fundraisers.

Volleyball: Each player is required to raise \$350. Fundraisers are available to raise the funds.

Wrestling: \$100

Golf: No Fee although require them to join the Lake Winds Golf course for \$100 per year and participate in our fundraiser which is a Golf Tournament.

Baseball: We have a 250.00 cloth wear fee and each family is responsible for raising through team fundraisers in the amount of \$500.00. Total \$750.00

Cheerleaders:

Large fundraisers:

Program-\$1400

Raffle-\$175

Wrapping-\$100

Small fundraisers throughout the year that everyone must participate in...Ford drive for your school, bake sale... Etc.

Parents also have out of pocket expenses.

Camp \$325, Shoes \$80, Building clinics \$100, Bloomers, bras, & bows \$100 est.

The reason for the No Pay No Play policy is when students make the athletic teams, materials and clothing are ordered for the athlete and those business' invoices are charged to the school. The school isn't allowed to pay for individual students' items such as warm ups, sweats, shirts, shoes or any individual item worn and kept by the student. Coaches are responsible for collecting fees prior to the 1st game of the season. If administration has to collect the debt, the money will be placed in the general fund.

Alexander City Schools

Athletic Handbook for Student-Athletes of BRHS & ACMS

The mission of Alexander City Schools is to provide a learning environment where ALL excel: Students-Faculty-Parents-Community. The Alexander City Schools (ACS) athletic program is designed to work in tandem with the academic program to accomplish the system's mission.

The courts have upheld that participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege and not a constitutionally protected right. Participation in this privilege carries with it varying degrees of responsibility, sacrifice and honor. Each student athlete represents his/her student body and school community. It is the duty of the student athlete to conduct his or herself in a positive manner while representing Alexander City Schools and ACS Athletics. This handbook is designed to inform student athletes and their parents of the rules, regulations and policies that program participants must follow. The following policies and procedures are intended to set minimum guidelines for participation in ACS athletics; the administration may establish additional sports specific rules and/or procedures that must be adhered to. Additionally, Alexander City Schools is a member of the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA). All regulations of the AHSAA are applicable to our athletic program.

ATHLETIC STATEMENT

This athletic handbook is designed to inform student athletes and their parents of the rules, regulations, and information that helped develop the rich tradition of competition in Alexander City Schools Athletics. Participation in athletics is a privilege which carries with it varying degrees of honor, responsibility, and sacrifice. Since competition is a privilege and not a right, those who choose to participate shall be expected to follow the rules established by the Athletic Department and other specific coaches' rules for their sport. Each student athlete represents his/her school and student body. It is the student athlete's duty to conduct himself/herself in a manner becoming the student athlete, his/her family, Alexander City Schools, and the community.

While an attempt has been made to answer as many questions as possible and provide information on all aspects of athletic participation, it is possible that you may have some questions that are not answered here. Please contact the principal and/or athletic director for additional information.

The Athletic Department will enforce all rules and regulations as described in this Athletic Handbook. Parents and athletes are asked to sign an acknowledgement document located at the end of this handbook stating that they have read and understand the information in the handbook and that the athlete is subject to disciplinary measures should he/she violate the rules and regulations set forth in this Athletic Handbook. Athletes cannot participate until this form is signed and returned to the coach/athletic director.

DEPARTMENTAL PHILOSOPHY

The goal of the Athletic Department is to provide the best opportunities for student athletes to excel in teamwork, sportsmanship, self-discipline, and character. In

addition to developing skill in a sport, the purpose is to provide each participant with experiences that will be positive and memorable and that help develop the capacity for commitment to a cause, acceptance of responsibility, and loyalty toward any chosen endeavor.

SPORTSMANSHIP

A policy statement from the **National Federation of State High School Associations** expresses the concept of sportsmanship as follows:

“The ideals of good sportsmanship, ethical behavior, and integrity permeate our culture. The values of good citizenship and high behavioral standards apply equally to all activity disciplines. In perception and practice, good sportsmanship shall be defined as those qualities of behavior which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Further, awareness is expected of the impact of an individual’s influence on the behavior of others. Good sportsmanship is viewed as a concrete measure of the understanding and commitment to fair play, ethical behavior, and integrity.”

One of the main goals of the athletic program is to teach the concept of sportsmanship. Good sportsmanship requires that everyone be treated with respect. This includes members of the opposing team, officials, coaches and spectators. Good sportsmanship includes showing courtesy and kindness toward your opponent as well as fellow team members. The contest is exciting, but winning at any cost is not the goal. Negative treatment of any participant is outside the spirit and interest of the contest.

All AHSAA sanctioned events are a reflection of our community and school. The conduct of the team is extended to parents and fans before, during, and after athletic events.

Assault of sports officials, coaches, or administrators (SB-16): This bill became law on March 31, 2002, and creates new crimes of harassing, menacing, and assaulting sports officials, coaches, and administrators. The punishments are harsher than normal for convictions of harassment, menacing, and assault. For example, a second-degree assault can carry a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, but under the new law, a second-degree assault of a sports official, coach, or administrator could result in a sentence of up to 20 years.

ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

To Represent Your School in Athletic Contests

1. You must be a regularly enrolled student and must have enrolled in a school no later than the 20th school day of the semester in which the contest occurs.
2. You must not have graduated from an accredited high school or equal grades.
3. You must not have reached your 19th birthday (15th birthday in middle school) prior to August 1 of the current school year. (A student reaching age 19 [15 for middle school] on or after August 1st is eligible for the entire year.)
4. You must have a certified birth certificate (issued by the State Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state where you were born and bearing its official seal and birth/recording number) on file in your principal's office and an official eligibility list (a Form 3 with required information about you included) submitted to the state office at least five (5) days before you are eligible.
5. You must not have attended high school more than eight semesters after entering the ninth grade (Fifteen days of attendance during a semester count as a semester).
6. You must not have participated in any sport more than four seasons after entering the ninth grade or have participated more than six seasons in any sport after entering the seventh grade.
7. You must have received an adequate physical examination for the current school year and have a Physician's Certificate on file in the principal's or superintendent's office prior to participating in interscholastic athletics.
8. You must have passed a minimum of six full units of work (subjects) with a composite numerical average of 70 for those six units during the year preceding the year in which you participate. Not more than one unit in physical education may be counted per year. A maximum of two units may be earned in an accredited summer school. You must be taking six new units for work (subjects) during the current school year. A new unit (subject) is one not previously passed. Four core courses (English, math, social studies, and science) must be included in the six courses passed. A student declared ineligible at the beginning of the school year may reestablish his/her eligibility at the semester provided he/she meets the requirements of passing a minimum of six full units of work with a composite numerical average of 70 for those six units.

Middle school students must have passed during the last two semesters in attendance and summer school, if applicable, at least five new subjects with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those five subjects. (7th and 8th graders must be carrying at least five new subjects.)

Students entering the 7th grade for the first time are eligible.

9. You may be eligible in your home school at the beginning of each new school year as far as any transfer of schools is concerned. Your home school is the one that serves the area where your parent/guardian resides. Eligibility may be established in any school by attending that school for a period of one school year from the date of original entry. If you attend school outside your 'home school'

district, you must attend that school for one full calendar year in order to establish eligibility in that school. Always check your eligibility status before changing schools.

10. If your parents make a bona fide move from one school zone to another, you may transfer your eligibility to the new school. You become eligible five days after a Form 3 is submitted by the new school to the state office if you meet all requirements. If you change schools before your parents move, you do not become eligible in the new school until your parents complete a bona fide move into the new school district and five days have elapsed after a Form 3 is submitted to the state office.
11. You may not participate on a non-school team or in an outside sport activity in your sport during your school season. Exceptions are as follows: tennis, golf, swimming, track, or cross country team member, who may participate as an independent in two outside activities on non-school days during the season of that sport.
12. You must be an amateur athlete and never have played on a college team.
13. You must not have participated in any non-sanctioned all-star game.
14. You must not be guilty of flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct.
15. During the school year, you may not be coached by your school's coaching staff outside the school season in your sport(s). Weight training and conditioning programs are exempt from this restriction. During the summer months (from the end of school until the fall sports practice date), mandatory practice is prohibited, and games between schools are prohibited.
16. You may not dress in uniform for an athletic contest or sit on the bench in a game uniform or be on the field or court as a player if you are not eligible to participate in the game or event.
17. You may not participate in two levels of competition (varsity, junior varsity, B-team, junior high, or middle school) in one sport during the same event or the same day (This includes county tournaments even though they are played over several days.)

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

All students, including student athletes, managers, or support group members must meet the residency requirements of the Alexander City Board of Education as well as the Alabama High School Athletic Association.

Bona Fide Move

A student whose parents make a bona fide move from one community, school zone, or district to another may transfer all rights and privileges to the new school that serves the area into which the parents moved and where the parents reside.

Notes on Legal Bona Fide Move

1. Household furniture of the family must be moved.
2. All principal members of the family must reside in the new place of residence.

3. The original residence must be closed, leased, rented, disposed of, and not used by the family.
4. Nine months shall be required to make a move bona fide. (If a family moves into a new school zone and remains there for less than nine (9) months, the move will not be considered bona fide.)
5. Any students, upon completion of the highest grade taught in any school that offers less than the number of years required for high school graduation, becomes eligible immediately at the school that serves the area in which the student's parents reside if all other requirements are met. Example: An ACMS student who resides in that zone is immediately eligible at BRHS but would have to "sit out" a year if the student transfers to Dadeville High for 9th grade.

BEFORE THE FIRST PRACTICE

The following things are required by the student athlete **before the first practice** with any team: 1) Take and pass physical examination; 2) Receipt of parent consent form; 3) Signed Concussion Form; 4) Insurance Form

The following things are required by the student athlete 5 days **before the first contest** with any team: 1) Meet academic eligibility requirements; 2) Attend parent/athlete team meeting – parent and athlete sign "Acknowledgment of Athletic Handbook" document; 3) Complete Star Sportsmanship

ALEXANDER CITY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

Students must display qualities of good citizenship if they wish to participate in extracurricular activities. Failure to be a good citizen at all times may result in probation and/or suspension from all extracurricular activities.

The Alabama High School Athletic Association Constitution states:

Any pupil who is under temporary suspension or whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon the school is not eligible. A student's attendance, attitude, and classroom effort must be acceptable to the school in which the student is enrolled. Rule 1, Section 15, AHSAA By-Law

ATTENDANCE ELIGIBILITY

Daily attendance at school and practice is expected. In order for an athlete to be eligible to participate in any after-school activity he/she must be present in school on the day of the activity. If the activity is to be held on a Saturday, then the student must be in attendance in school on the preceding Friday.

To be considered in school a student may be in school at least one-half of the school day. Students are required to be in school a minimum of 3 hours and 30 minutes on said day. If he/she is not in school from that time until the end of the school day, then he/she is not to participate or be involved in any way with the activity. Practices are considered an activity. Any exceptions must have the approval of the principal. An athlete must be in school on a regular basis in order to be eligible to participate in

athletics. An athlete who accumulates an excessive number of absences or tardies as designated in the student handbook will be placed on probation for a specified time period. If absences continue during this time, the athlete will then be suspended from athletic participation until it is clear that the attendance problem is resolved. An athlete who has excessive tardies to school and/or classes will be subject to restriction from athletic participation.

CONDUCT ELIGIBILITY

Rule 1. Student athletes shall not possess, use, transmit, or be under the influence of tobacco, alcohol, and/or other drugs such as marijuana, controlled drug substances (hallucinogens, stimulants, depressants, or any other narcotic or controlled drug) or possess, use, or transmit paraphernalia for use of such substances. (Use of an authorized drug as prescribed by a registered physician will not constitute a violation.)

Refer to the Alexander City Schools drug testing policy for procedures and consequences.

Rule 2. Violation of school rules, disruptive behavior, showing disrespect toward school staff, unsportsmanlike conduct, and/or committing any act that reflects negatively on the Athletic Department will not be tolerated and such action(s) will lead to eligibility restrictions. If the behavior is serious enough, the athlete may be placed on probation or suspended. An athlete who continues such behavior will be suspended from all athletic participation.

Student Athletes are expected to leave situations immediately where drugs and/or alcohol are being used. Failure to do so implies guilt and violators will be dealt with accordingly.

Rule 3. Specific team rules may be set forth by the coach of each sport. These rules and the penalties for breaking them will be given to the student athletes by the coach at the first parent/athlete meeting of that sport.

The rules under this section are enforced twelve (12) months of the year, grades seven through twelve (7-12).

A student who is uncooperative, i.e., sleeps in class, disrupts, refuses to complete work, etc., will be considered a discipline problem which could result in suspension from athletic competition and/or removal from athletics as possible punitive options.

CONDUCT NOTES

Consequences for off campus violations of the Code of Conduct will not be based on hearsay or rumor. When there is reasonable suspicion (a belief or opinion based on the facts or circumstances) or when there is an admission of guilt by the athlete to a violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct the Athletic Handbook rules will be enforced. Penalties for violations take effect immediately upon determination of any

violation and will include games in succession; i.e. season schedule, tournaments, and state series, in order of competition.

If a violation of the Code of Conduct occurs in the last one-third (1/3) of the sport season, the student athlete will not be considered in good standing and, therefore, will forfeit all letters and awards for that sport season.

If a violation of the Code of Conduct occurs in the last part of a sport and the violator cannot fulfill the terms of his/her consequences in that sport, the suspension **does carry over** until the suspension is fulfilled. This includes his/her next sport or the same sport next year. For example, if the suspension is for two football games with only one remaining, the student athlete must also miss his first basketball game or wrestling match or baseball game until the suspension has been paid. If a typically one sport student athlete elects to participate in a new sport in order to serve a suspension, he/she will be required to complete that season in good standing.

Students who are assigned to alternative school are not allowed to participate in the athletic program. Students who are placed in the In-School Suspension program are allowed to practice but can NOT participate in contests/games.

Attendance at athletic events, whether a participant or spectator, and at practice is prohibited during the suspension period. If school rules are broken, the student athlete will be subject to the normal punishment for such misbehavior as well as subject to penalties under the Athletic Handbook. In no case will athletic rules circumvent or take the place of school rules.

AHSAA Sportsmanship Conduct Rule

Penalties for coaches and players ejected from one or more contests are as follows:

First Ejection: Minimum penalty of a \$300 fine

Second Ejection: Minimum penalty of a one game suspension and a \$500 fine

Third Ejection: Minimum penalty of a suspension for the remainder of the season plus a \$750 fine.

On first offense, if the student athlete completes within 10 days of the ejection a designated Sportsmanship Course Online, the fine will be reduced to \$100.

If a student-athlete receives a fine due to an ejection, his/her family will be financially responsible for paying the fine to the AHSAA. All Coaches will also be responsible for the fines set forth by the AHSAA for misconduct and displays of poor sportsmanship. Repeat offenders may be suspended beyond the suspensions of the AHSAA and/or dismissed from sport.

AWARD

An athletic award is a symbol of athletic accomplishment, good sportsmanship, and observance of athletic policies. Student athletes, managers, trainers, and cheerleaders are eligible to earn awards. Candidates must complete the season's play; however, this requirement may be waived in cases of physical injury. **No awards will be issued to an athlete until all equipment for his/her sport is turned in to the coach.**

INFORMATION FOR ATHLETES

Accidents/Injuries

All accidents or injuries, at home or away, are to be reported to the trainer and/or coach immediately.

Athletic Physical Education

Since strength and conditioning is paramount to success in athletics and to injury prevention, all student athletes must participate in athletic PE the entire year. However, academic courses take precedence over athletic PE. If an athlete does not have room in his or her schedule for athletic PE because of a required core class, this requirement may be waived. The athlete must have approval from the coach, counselor, and principal to waive the athletic PE requirement.

During athletic PE all athletes are expected to give their best efforts during all workouts. They are also expected to exhibit an attitude conducive to teamwork and cooperation. If athletes are removed from athletic PE due to a lack of effort or poor attitude, they will also be dismissed from their team.

Procedures for Dismissal from Athletic PE

- **First Offense:** Athlete will meet with the athletic PE teacher and his or her sport coach
- **Second Offense:** Athlete will meet with the athletic PE teacher, his or her sport coach, and athletic director
- **Third Offense:** Athlete will meet with the PE teacher, sport coach, athletic director, and principal
- **Fourth Offense:** Dismissal from athletic PE and athletics

Changing a Sport/Quitting a Team

A student athlete cannot quit one sport to join another sport until that sport season is concluded. For example, one cannot quit football to go out for basketball until football season is completed. However, athletes will be allowed to transfer from one sport to another during a given season upon mutual agreement of both coaches. An appeal can be made to the athletic director if circumstances warrant consideration.

If an athlete at the high school level quits a sport, they may not practice or play with another sport until the season of the sport they quit is completed, including playoffs. They will also be suspended from playing in the first 10% of contests/games. If a first time athlete tries out for a sport and decides within the first two weeks of practice that he or she does not want to participate in the sport, they may quit without penalty. If a new head coach (new to Alexander City Schools) is in place for a sport, players will have the first two weeks to decide whether they wish to participate or quit without penalty. Summer workouts count as practice.

If the student athlete leaves the team, the following procedure must be followed

1. The student athlete must talk with his or her coach, head coach of the sport, and athletic director.
2. The student athlete must return all equipment issued.
3. The coach will report the student athlete's name to the athletic director so it can be taken off the roster for eligibility purposes.

Conflicts Between Activities

Students are sometimes involved in concurrent activities, and there may be conflicts in schedules. Communication between coaches and sponsors of conflicting activities is vital. Consideration must be given to the importance of the event and the role the student athlete will play in it.

Doctor Visits

Medical expenses are the responsibility of the athlete/family. Written verification from the doctor is required when a physician removes an athlete from practices or games. Written verification from the doctor is required to return to athletic competition.

Dress

Participation in Alexander City School's athletics is a privilege, not a right. To be successful the participant must be well disciplined and willing to put aside individualism for the benefit of the team. Conforming to a dress code is part of this process. It is very important to our team/school reputation that our student athletes dress appropriately during the school day and at all school functions. An individual coach may add additional rules related to the dress code outside of the school handbook for his or her team.

Equipment

Equipment checked out by the athlete is his/her responsibility. It is to be kept clean and in good condition. Loss of issued equipment will be the athlete's/parent's financial obligation. The athlete will not be allowed to participate in other athletic programs or receive awards until this obligation is met. Equipment includes any issued supplies from the training room.

Insurance

All Alexander City Schools student athletes are required to have medical insurance and must supply information verifying such before participating in practice and/or competition.

Participation in Two Sports in One Season

Student athletes may participate in more than one sport during one season with the approval of both coaches. Practice schedules will be worked out between the coaches involved. Consideration should be given to the importance of the sport (ex. Varsity versus non-varsity, playoffs versus regular season, and the games versus practice). If contests conflicts arise, coaches will decide in which contest the student athlete is to compete. The student athlete must realize that extra time for practice is necessary to compete in two sports in one season. The student athlete must meet the requirements of both sports. If the requirements of one or both sports are not met, the student athlete may be cut from the sport(s).

Team Tryout Policies

Each coach of varsity sports has his/her policy on how he/she will choose his/her team. Coaches will explain their team selection policy at the first meeting. Arrangements for tryouts must be made for athletes involved in overlapping

sports seasons. It is the responsibility of the student athlete to contact the coach and discuss possible conflicts well in advance of tryouts. A student athlete may be cut from a team anytime during a season for appropriate reasons.

Training Room (High School)

The training room is available to all athletes. Athletes are offered a wide variety of services to help meet the demands of athletic competition. The following are guidelines to be followed when using the training room.

1. No student is permitted in this room without the athletic trainer or coach being with him/her.
2. Only student athletes needing treatment and/or rehabilitation of an athletic injury are allowed in this area.
3. All taping, bandaging, and treatments will be done by the athletic training staff.
4. Wear appropriate clothing. We are co-ed facility.
5. Cleats are NOT allowed in the training room.
6. Only the athletic training staff is to switch the whirlpool on or off.
7. Do not use or remove supplies without permission. No athlete may participate until all issued supplies have been returned or paid for.

SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES:

Student-athletes are responsible for information contained in written or electronic transmissions (e.g. e-mail) and any information posted on a public domain (e.g. internet, chat room, blogs, Face book, You Tube, My Space). Inappropriate or embarrassing information or pictures should not be posted in any public domain. Student-athletes are not precluded from participation in such online social networks; however, student-athletes should be reminded that they serve as representatives of their team, the athletic program and Alexander City Schools.

Texting, tweeting and uses of other social networks to disparage or criticize the team, other students, opponents, coaches or other school personnel is inappropriate behavior and unbecoming of a Alexander City student-athlete. Any individual identified on a social networking site which depicts illegal or inappropriate behavior, due to the Honor Code or other policy, will be considered in violation and subject to athletic discipline or suspension per policy guidelines.

Transportation

Transportation to athletic events is provided by the Athletic Department when appropriate. Parents may be called upon, at times, to help transport athletes to a contest. Parents should see the coach or the Athletic Director for a permission form to transport students in privately owned vehicles.

Parent Pickup

A coach or designated adult will remain with athletes until all are picked up after practices and games. Please respect the time of our coaches by picking up your student-athlete immediately following practices and/or games. If you are not able to transport your student-athlete home, please make other arrangements prior to the event.

The Parent/Coach Relationship

Parents should discuss any concerns they may have about their student-athletes emotional or physical status. Parents should also request from the coach any information about ways the athlete might improve his or her performance.

Coaches are professionals. They make decisions based on what they believe is best for the team and all student-athletes involved. Sometimes it is difficult to accept that a student is not playing as much as he or she or the parent desires. However, the judgment and authority of the coach to make decisions regarding playing time must be respected. It is also not appropriate for a parent to question or challenge a coach's decisions regarding play calling or strategy. It is never appropriate for a parent to discuss with a coach the status of another student-athlete.

There are situations that require a conference between the coach and the parent. These meetings are encouraged. If a parent has a concern and would like to discuss it, he or she should call to schedule an appointment with the coach. If the coach cannot be reached, please feel free to call the athletic director to arrange a meeting for you. If a parent has an unresolved concern and would like to discuss it further, he or she should call to schedule an appointment with the athletic director.

When a student athlete begins a sport, we ask that they fulfill their obligation to themselves and their teammates by finishing the season. Before a parent decides to remove their child from a team during the season for any length of time due to grades, discipline or any other reason, please schedule a conference with the coach and athletic director in advance to go over the impact that will be created. Many situations may be avoided if effective communication has taken place prior to removing a child from the team.

Athletic Lines of Communication

As students become involved in athletics, they will experience some of the most rewarding moments of their lives. It is important to understand at times students may experience disappointment and frustrations. At these times, student initiated discussions with the coach are recommended and encouraged. Parent involvement should be secondary but if it is necessary, the following steps should be taken:

1. The first step is talking to the coach directly about the concern. Make an appointment with the coach. Never approach the coach immediately after a game unless the coach requests this. **Any person who approaches a member of the coaching staff in a threatening matter will be banned from all Alexander City School athletic events.**
2. If the coach cannot be reached, call the athletic director to set up a meeting with the appropriate coach.
3. If the meeting with the coach does not result in resolution of the problem, call and set up an appointment with the Athletic Director.

Discussing issues with other parents, teachers, board members, or administration is inappropriate and will not result in positive resolution of the situation.